



# WIS CAREER SYMPOSIUM • FEBRUARY 7-9, 2025

WYNDHAM GRAND CLEARWATER BEACH *Clearwater Florida*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

### 2:30 pm - 4:45 pm WORKSHOP SESSIONS

#### SESSION A: UNDERGRADUATES AND MEDICAL STUDENTS

**Moderator:** *Monique Hassan*

**Panelists:** *Kellie McFarlin, Scott Gallagher, Sarah Samreen, Vivian Gahtan, Nova Szoka, Maria Altieri, Rahila Essani, Melissa Phillips, Moran Slavin*

#### Creating a Powerful Presence

- The Science Behind First Impressions
- Dressing with Confidence and Style
- Professional Etiquette: Navigating Social and Business Settings
- Communicating Your Value in 30 Seconds – Elevator Speech

#### Building Your Professional Identity

- Crafting Compelling Personal Statements That Stand Out
- Research Opportunities That Open Doors
- Exam Strategies: Mastering MCAT and Beyond
- The Journey to Authenticity: Embracing Imperfection

#### Financial Fitness & Stress Management

- Smart Financial Choices for a Stress-Free Career
- Balancing Debt, Dreams, and Wellness

#### Interactive Role Play

- Acing the Interview: From Preparation to Execution
  - Interactive Interview Simulations
- Creating Meaningful Connections
  - Building Lasting Mentor-Mentee Relationships
  - Networking Bingo: Finding Your Future Mentors

#### SESSION B: RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

**Moderator:** *Leigh Neumayer*

**Panelists:** *Sharmila Dissainake, Steve Schwaizberg, Alia Qureshi, Lynn O'Connor, Nita Ahuja, KMarie King, Marina Kurian, Maureen Ayril, Marie Crandall*

#### Charting Your Path: Residency or Fellowship

- Building Confidence: Finding Your Voice in Medical Teams
- Thriving in Teamwork: Standing Out Without Overshadowing
- Decoding Residency Programs: Key Factors to Consider

#### Financial Success for Your Future

- Money Matters: Building a Smart Financial Plan
- Managing Debt Without Losing Sleep
- Navigating Contract Offers: Negotiation Strategies That Work

#### Unlocking the Power of Professional Societies

- Choosing the Right Society for You
- Making the Most of Membership: Opportunities You Can't-Miss
- Networking That Opens Doors



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## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025 (continued)

	<b>SESSION C: ATTENDING (AWS COLLABORATION) PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY, NEGOTIATIONS AND PROMOTION</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Chantal Reyna</i> <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and branding your Niche</li> <li>• How to find a job that supports you in your niche</li> <li>• Negotiation tips and tricks</li> <li>• Avoiding negotiation pitfalls</li> <li>• How to promote yourself at your own place</li> <li>• How to promote yourself within your specialty</li> <li>• How to promote yourself for new opportunities</li> <li>• Pearls on promotion</li> </ul> Q&A Panel at the End
<b>5:00 pm – 6:00 pm</b>	<b>POSTER SESSION [10] – Moderator:</b> <i>Rebecca Minter</i>
<b>6:15 pm – 9:00 pm</b>	<b>WELCOME RECEPTION AND 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION</b>

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

<b>7:00 am – 8:00 am</b>	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b> Breakfast Briefing: Guiding International Medical Graduates to Success in Surgical Careers <i>Rahila Essani and Sarah Samreen</i>
<b>8:00 am – 10:00 am</b>	<b>REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS</b>
<b>8:00 am – 10:00 am</b>	STEM and Undergrad Robotic Competition
<b>8:00 am – 8:15 am</b>	Opening Remarks from Program Chair <i>Sharona Ross</i>
<b>PLENARY SESSIONS</b>	
<b>8:15 am – 9:15 am</b>	<b>PLENARY 1: SHARED PRIORITIES IN SURGERY AMONG Z, Y, X GENERATIONS, AND BABY BOOMER</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Julie Freischlag</i> <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Aurora Pryor, Alia Qureshi, Linda Richetelli-Pepe, Patricia Numann, KMarie King, Sallie Matthews, Ann Rogers, Alisa Coker, Sarah Samreen</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reshaping Surgical Culture</li> <li>• Priorities and Concerns Among Different Generations</li> <li>• Equity &amp; Diversity</li> <li>• Mentorship &amp; Sponsorship</li> <li>• Transitioning Leadership Roles in Surgical Societies and Institutions</li> <li>• How are payers influencing surgical priorities across generations? - Exploring Value-Based Healthcare and Its Impact on Providers and Health Systems</li> </ul>



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## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 (continued)

9:15 am – 9:45 am	<b>BREAK WITH INDUSTRY</b>
9:45 am – 10:45 am	<p><b>PLENARY 2: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMING SURGERY</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Darla Hutton</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> <i>Melissa Hogg, Betsy Grunch, Vonda Wright, Melanie Aya-ay, Sharon Stein, Steve Schwaitzberg, Deborah Keller, Danielle Walsh, Lynn O'Connor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women surgeons are advancing in healthcare innovations &amp; Robotic Surgery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gen Y/Z women surgeons tend to easily embrace new technology: Simulation Training, Robotic Surgery, Telesurgery</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Different Generational Approaches to Adoption of Surgical Technology</li> <li>• Implementing AI into your life and practice</li> <li>• Art of Social Media in Building a Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educating Patients, Referring Physicians, and Colleagues</li> <li>- Balancing Connectivity and Professionalism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:45 am – 11:45 am	<p><b>PLENARY 3: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON WORK CULTURE IN SURGERY</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Tanuja Damani</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> <i>Rooma Sihna, Rebecca Minter, Patricia Numann, Darla Hutton, Jennifer Tseng, Julie Freischlag, KMarie King, Alia Qureshi, Marina Kurian</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-cultural and Cross-generational Insights into Equity, Safety, and Work-Life Balance</li> <li>• Regional Variations in Surgical Practices and Expectations</li> <li>• The Role of Cultural Norms in Surgical Training and Patient Care</li> </ul>
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	<p><b>PLENARY 4: REPRESENTATION IN SURGERY</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Karen Gibbs</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> <i>Alisan Fathalizadeh, Patricia Numann, Sarah McLaughlin, Lisa Jane Jacobsen, Rooma Sihna, Martin Martino, Alice Race, Julie-Ann Lloyd, Marie Crandall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breaking Barriers in Male-Dominated Fields</li> <li>• Strengthening Diversity Across Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Lines</li> <li>• Hard Work, Resilience, and Competence</li> <li>• DEI in a Changing Landscape: Responding to Challenges After the Supreme Court Ruling</li> <li>• Differences between Male and Female-Dominated Fields – Ob/Gyn vs. General Surgery</li> </ul>
12:45 pm – 2:15 pm	<b>NETWORKING LUNCH</b>





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## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 (continued)

<b>2:15 pm – 3:15 pm</b>	<b>PLENARY 5: COLLABORATING WITH INDUSTRY</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Melissa Phillips</i> <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Darla Hutton, Martin Martino, Nova Szoka, Gina Baldo, Tanuja Damani, Alisa Coker, Sallie Matthews, Monique Hassan, Melissa Hogg</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Relationships and Opportunities with Industry Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Importance of Industry Collaboration</li> <li>- Surgeons' Roles: Consultant, KOL, Speaker, Innovator, Investor</li> <li>- Using Social Media to Attract Industry Opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Addressing Disparities in Women Surgeons' Involvement with Industry</li> </ul>
<b>3:15 pm – 3:45 pm</b>	<b>BREAK WITH INDUSTRY</b>
<b>3:45 pm – 4:45 pm</b>	<b>PLENARY 6: FAMILY, CAREER AND HEALTH IN SURGERY</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Nita Ahuja</i> <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Kellie McFarlin, Maria Altieri, Nova Szoka, Geeta Lal, Rahila Essani, Danielle Walsh, Vonda Wright, Vivian Gahtan, Anne Lidor</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generational Approaches to Balance Family and Career <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When is the Right Time to have children?</li> <li>- Medical School, Residency, Fellowship, First Job?</li> <li>- What are the Challenges?</li> <li>- Are there any Solutions?</li> <li>- Working Part-time?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fertility Issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freezing Embryos or Eggs, Embryo Donation</li> <li>- Adoption</li> <li>- Single Parenting</li> <li>- Women content without having children</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Taking Care of Your Health – Inside and Outside the OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper Ergonomics in the OR</li> <li>- Physical Health Outside the OR</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

7:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b>
9:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>
	<p><b>SESSION A: UNDERGRADUATES AND MEDICAL STUDENTS EXCELLING IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL JOURNEY</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Lynn O'Connor</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Krista Haines, Vonda Wright, Lisa Jane Jacobsen, Melissa Hogg, Sarah McLaughlin, Sharon Stein, Anne Lidor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cracking the Code: Your Ultimate Guide to Medical School Applications</li> <li>• Beyond the Basics: Adding Personal Flair to Create a Standout Application</li> <li>• Insights from the Experts. A Day in the Life of: HPB Surgeon, Colorectal Surgeon, Orthopedic Surgeon, Ob/Gyn, Breast Surgical Oncologist, Bariatric Surgeon, General Surgeon</li> <li>• Building Mental Strength: Turning Healthcare Stress into Resilience</li> <li>• Achieving Harmony: Practical Strategies for Sustainable Wellness</li> <li>• Q&amp;A Panel – All Faculty</li> </ul>
	<p><b>SESSION B: RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS BUILDING BLOCKS TO SUCCESS AFTER SURGICAL TRAINING</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>KMarie King</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Betsy Grunch, Moran Slavin, Monique Hassan, Peter Kingham, Pamela Hodul</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pros and Cons of joining an Academic Program versus a Community Program</li> <li>• Building Connections That Matter: Creative Networking and Community Trust</li> <li>• Breaking Barriers: Strategies to Overcome Bias in Your Practice</li> <li>• Detailed Instructions: How to be a medical influencer on Social Media</li> <li>• Rising to Leadership: Navigating Institutional Roles with Confidence</li> <li>• Q&amp;A Panel – Wisdom from the Faculty</li> </ul>
	<p><b>SESSION C: ATTENDING (AWS COLLABORATION) BEWARE THE GLASS CLIFF</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Marion Henry</i>  <b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Glass Cliff</li> <li>• Shared discussion of some common and not-so-common scenarios</li> <li>• How to recognize good opportunity versus a not so good opportunity</li> <li>• Coaching and mentorship regarding these opportunities</li> <li>• What to do if you find yourself on the edge of the cliff</li> <li>• Q&amp;A Panel – Wisdom from the Faculty</li> </ul>
11:00 am – 11:15 am	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>